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Economics Newsletter

Department of Economics

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Spring 2015 Economics Newsletter

Economics Department

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Economics Newsletter

FROM THE CHAIR

It is that time of year where everyone looks forward to the first harbinger of winter's wane, which for us has always been the Winter Institute. The best part of the Winter Institute is the opportunity to talk to alumni and current students, so please make an effort to come!

Dr. Banaian is still interim Dean of the School of Public Affairs (SoPA) and Dr. Hughes is still interim Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Provost for Research. Both are proof of the quality and importance of an economics degree. But we hope their interim positions get filled this spring so they may return to the Economics Department.

There is a new process for applying for scholarships at SCSU. We hope all current students, graduate and undergraduate, take advantage of the available scholarships and apply using the new process. Paper applications will no longer be available from the department office.

We were all uplifted by Dr. Grossman's visit in early December. The department continues to be strong and is very pleased with our new hire, Nimantha Manamperi. We thank all our alumni for being "products" we can be proud of and we wish you success throughout the coming year.

Nathan Hampton
Interim Chair

MEET THE PROFESSOR



Professor **David Switzer** joined the economics department in 2006 and is now an associate professor. His early research focused on the motion picture industry, but his research lately has tended more towards economics education and assessment, as he is also the Assessment Coordinator for SoPA. Dave has also spent the last two years working on supplemental materials for a new economics principles textbook that is (finally!) launching in Fall 2014. He's enjoyed being able to share the best examples he's gathered while teaching over the years to develop content that will help students really connect with the material. He lives in Sartell with his wife, Sam, their two dogs Kenzie and Koda, and their cat Bella.

ALNWICK EDUCATION ABROAD PROGRAM

SoPA Semester in Alnwick

Fall Semester 2015 presents a great opportunity for economics majors and minors to study at the university's site in Alnwick, Northumberland, England. Economics professor Rich MacDonald will serve as the SCSU faculty member (teaching Principles of Macroeconomics (ECON 205), Principles of Microeconomics (ECON 206), Money and Banking (ECON 471), and Contemporary Economic Problems: The British Economy (ECON 483)). Michelle Hammes of the Political Science Department will be directing the Fall 2015 Alnwick program and will be teaching a course in political science. As usual, students will also take classes on British History and Contemporary Britain. While students from across campus are encouraged to apply for the program, the focus on economics and political science should be attractive to students from the School of Public Affairs (SoPA). SoPA students can count these courses toward their major(s)/minor(s), can continue fulfilling Liberal Education requirements, can apply courses to the British Studies minor, and will spend time analyzing issues from key public policy perspectives. Drs. Hammes and MacDonald look forward to integrating the students' experiences across all courses and applying a common public affairs perspective. The program is currently recruiting for all upcoming semesters, including the Fall 2015 semester. Questions about the program can be directed to either Dr. Hammes at mhammes@stcloudstate.edu, Dr. MacDonald at ramacdonald@stcloudstate.edu, or the Center for International Studies at international@stcloudstate.edu. Cheers!

Open House for those interested in Fall 2015 Alnwick Program

Students interested in participating in the Fall 2015 Alnwick program are invited to an Open House from 2-3 pm on Wednesday, January 28 in the School of Public Affairs Research Institute, Stewart Hall 329. Students will be able to meet the SCSU faculty—Dr. Michelle Hammes and Dr. Richard MacDonald—who will serve as faculty members for the fall program. Questions concerning registration, travel, financial aid, course offerings, etc. will be answered during the Open House. Please join us on January 28. Tea, biscuits, and other refreshments will be served!



ALUMNI

Pictured left to right are Professor **Masoud Moghaddam**, SOPA Dean **King Banaian**, and Professor **Oleksandr (Sasha) Lugovskyy**. Sasha, a 2006 graduate of our MS Applied Economics program, is now an Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire. The three professors met at the MEA conference at Hamline University in October.



Pictured left to right are Professor **Lo, Danqing (Sophie) Shen**, and Professor **Mana Komai**. Sophie, a 2013 graduate of our MS Applied Economics program, is currently in her second year in Purdue's PhD program in Economics. She met with Mana and Ming in the cities to enjoy food and each others company.

Chris Hunt, a 2007 graduate, is now the Director of Analytics at Jefferson Capital Systems, LLC. Chris often informs us of job openings within his company which we then forward to our current students. Thank you Chris!

Travis Walstrom is employed as a Contracted Business/Data Analyst at McKesson Medical-Surgical, where he gathers, analyzes, prepares and summarizes data to highlight trends in the business. Travis is a 2014 graduate.

Alison (Mueller) Robertson along with her husband James are enjoying their new baby girl Riley (pictured left), who was born last summer. Alison is a 2005 graduate who went on to pursue an MBA at the Carlson School of Management. Alison is now the Assistant Vice President of Finance at Minnwest Corporation. Congratulations!



GRADUATES

Summer 2014

Nikhil Joshi

Abdirizak Mohamed

Wendpayimdi Nikiema*

Sashan Rodrigo*

Daniel Shima

Travis Walstrom

Joan Watson

Tyler Sirucek*

** indicates graduate student*

SCHOLARSHIPS

Starting this spring, students must complete the new online scholarship application which will automatically consider you for all SCSU scholarship opportunities for which you qualify. Below are the scholarships affiliated with our department.

**Crumpton Farrell Finance and Economics Scholarship
Economics Department Scholarship**

Robert and Ronald Besonen Endowed Scholarship

Rose Marie Gamber Scholarship in Economics

Michael D. White Economics Fellowship

WINTER INSTITUTE

The 53rd Winter Institute will be held on February 18-19, 2015. Our events will start with the Economic Outlook panel at the Kelly Inn in St. Cloud. This will be immediately followed by a reception with the performance of the Andrew Walesch Band. On the second day, we will move to the SCSU campus where we have added several special sessions to the morning program. These sessions are created for audiences from local community members, K-12 teachers, and faculty and students. The St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce will present a business panel during lunch, followed by the keynote speech "The Transportation Experience: From Steamboats to Streetcars" by Professor David Levinson of the University of Minnesota.

Our department always appreciates your support. Please come and join us at one of the most important events of the year!

For more information, please visit <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/winterinstitute> or email Ming Lo at mclo@stcloudstate.edu or Cindy Fitzthum at cjfitzthum@stcloudstate.edu.

We love correspondence from our alumni! Please keep in touch with us—we would like to know what you are doing now, along with learning about exciting events in your life. We welcome new information to include in upcoming newsletters.

Internships

We are always trying to expand our internship program. Let us know if your company offers internships and we will share this information with our majors.

Donations

Please consider giving; no donation is too small. Donating provides both financial support and encouragement to student recipients. We have several accounts to choose from: **Economics Scholarship** (undergraduate scholarships), **Rose Marie Gamber Scholarship in Economics** (undergraduate scholarships), **Michael D. White Economics Fellowship** (graduate scholarships), **Economics Foundation** (student and department research/activities). Information on ways to give can be found at <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/foundation/waystogive/>.

FACULTY

Professor Emeritus **Philip Grossman** and his wife Ann, visited us from Australia. Professor Grossman presented “Deconstructing Giving: Donor Types and How They Give” for our seminar series, along with collaborating on research with Professor **Komai**. Phil and Ann joined several of our faculty members at an informal dinner before they returned to Oz.



Pictured above from L to R: Lynn MacDonald, King Banaian, Mana Komai, Ming Lo, Ann Grossman, Phil Grossman, Patricia Hughes.

Professor **Nimantha Manamperi** presented “The Financial Stress Effect on BRC Country Monetary Policy: A Time Varying Policy Approach” at the 84th Southern Economic Conferences in Atlanta, GA.

Professor **Nimantha Manamperi** presented “Dynamics between Government Debt and Economic Growth in South Asia: A Time Series Approach” at the Kentucky Economic Association Conference.

Professor **Nimantha Manamperi** received a short term faculty improvement grant from Office of Research and Sponsored Programs.

Professor **Rich MacDonald** attended the Durham Islamic Finance summer school at Durham University (UK) in September 2014. The week long program included numerous sessions on the basics of Islamic Banking and Finance, structuring Shari’ah compliant investments, financial instruments and institutions in Islamic Banking and Finance, and a range of special topics in this growing segment of the financial marketplace.

Dr. King Banaian

Dr. Mónica García-Pérez

Dr. N. Eric Hampton (*interim chair*)

Dr. Patricia Hughes

Dr. Eungmin Kang

Dr. Mana Komai

Dr. Ming Chien Lo

Dr. Lynn MacDonald

Dr. Richard MacDonald

Dr. Nimantha Manamperi

Dr. Masoud Moghaddam

Dr. Artatrana Ratha

Dr. Ken Rebeck

Dr. David Switzer

The goal of our newsletter is to maintain communication between our alumni, faculty, and current students.

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